Topps COMICS

1 OF 3

$2.95 US
$4.15 CANADA

SUGGESTED FOR DEMENTED READERS

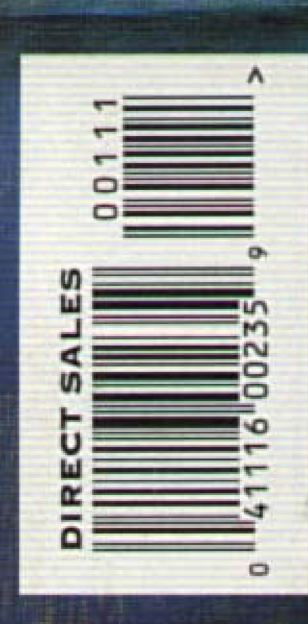
JASON VS LEATHERFACE

™

™

THE NEXT TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE IS ON FRIDAY THE 13TH!

BISLEY/95



NANCY COLLINS
JEFF BUTLER
STEVE MONTANO
SIMON BISLEY

JASON™ VS LEATHERFACE™

Part 1 of 3
"Goin' South"

NANCY COLLINS
WRITER

**NANCY COLLINS/
DAVID IMHOFF**
PLOT

JEFF BUTLER
ARTIST

STEVE MONTANO
INKER

RENÉE WITTERSTAETTER
EDITOR/COLORIST

ELECTRIC CRAYON
COMPUTER SEPARATIONS

SIMON BISLEY
COVER ARTIST

JEFF BUTLER
FRONTISPIECE

TOPPS COMICS

JIM SALICRUP
ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER AND EDITOR IN CHIEF

DWIGHT JON ZIMMERMAN
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

RENÉE WITTERSTATTER
EDITOR

GARY GERANI
WEST COAST EDITOR

CARL GAFFORD
EDITORIAL PRODUCTION MANAGER

DON ALAN ZAKRZEWSKI
DESIGN DIRECTOR

IRA FRIEDMAN
PUBLISHER

LEN BROWN
CREATIVE DIRECTOR

CHARLES S. NOVINSKIE
SALES AND PROMOTIONS MANAGER

BRIAN C. BOERNER
GRAPHIC PRODUCTION

LUZ LA SALLE
DISTRIBUTOR LIAISON

**SANDY FIUMANO
ELENA T. HILF**
PUBLISHING ASSISTANTS

ARTHUR T. SHORIN
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

JOHN J. LANGDON
PRESIDENT

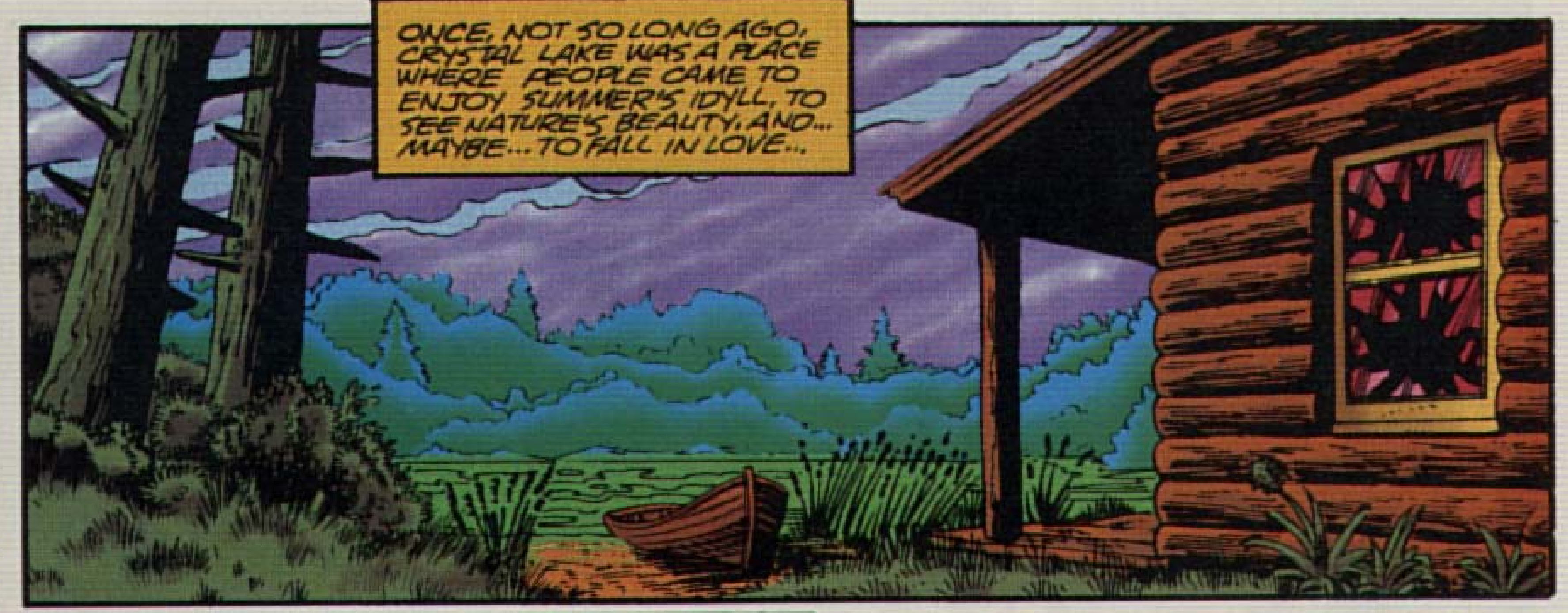
FOR ADVERTISING INFORMATION CONTACT BOB ROSEN AT KO&R, 850 SEVENTH AVENUE SUITE 903, NEW YORK, NY 10019, PH: (212) 399-9500, FX: (212) 265-0986

FOR BACK ISSUES: WRITE TO TOM MOREY AT SPACE TRAVELLERS, P.O. BOX 62523, VIRGINIA BEACH, VA 23466-2523, PH: (1-800) 458-6777

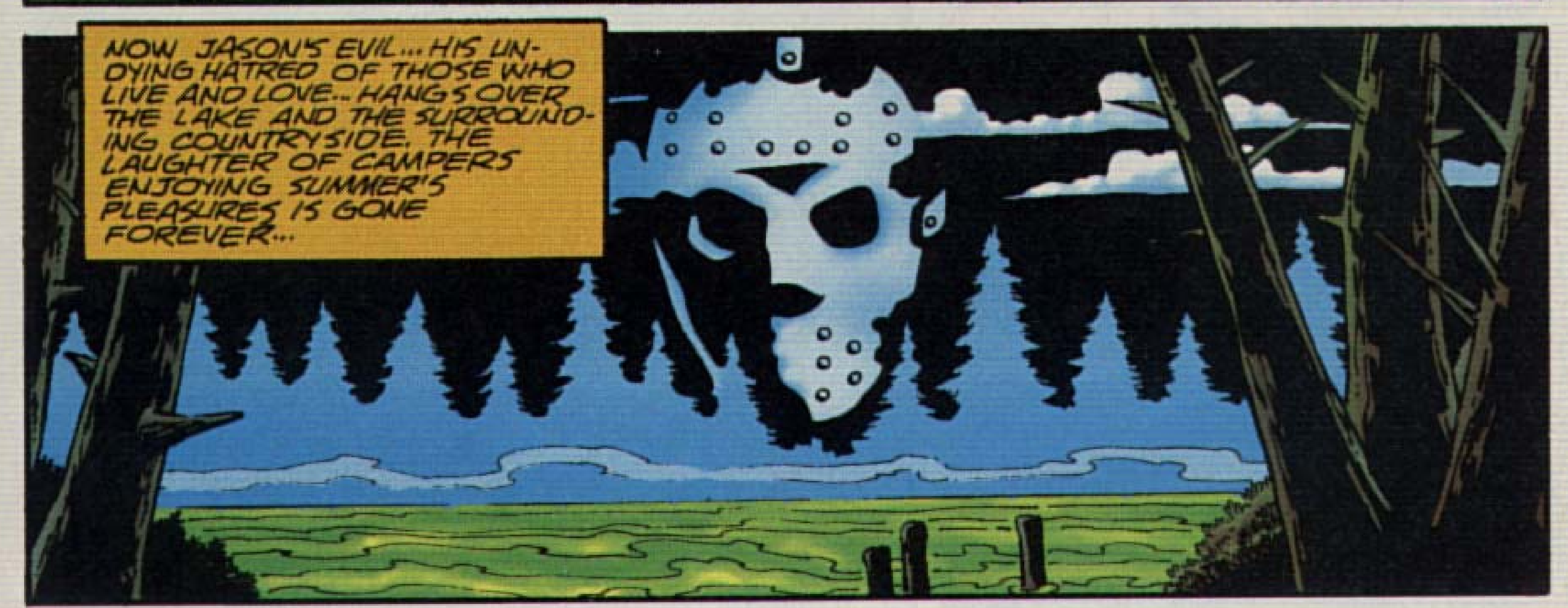
JASON™ VS. LEATHERFACE™ Vol. 1, Number 1, October 1995. Published monthly by TOPPS COMICS, INC., One Whitehall Street, New York, NY 10004.

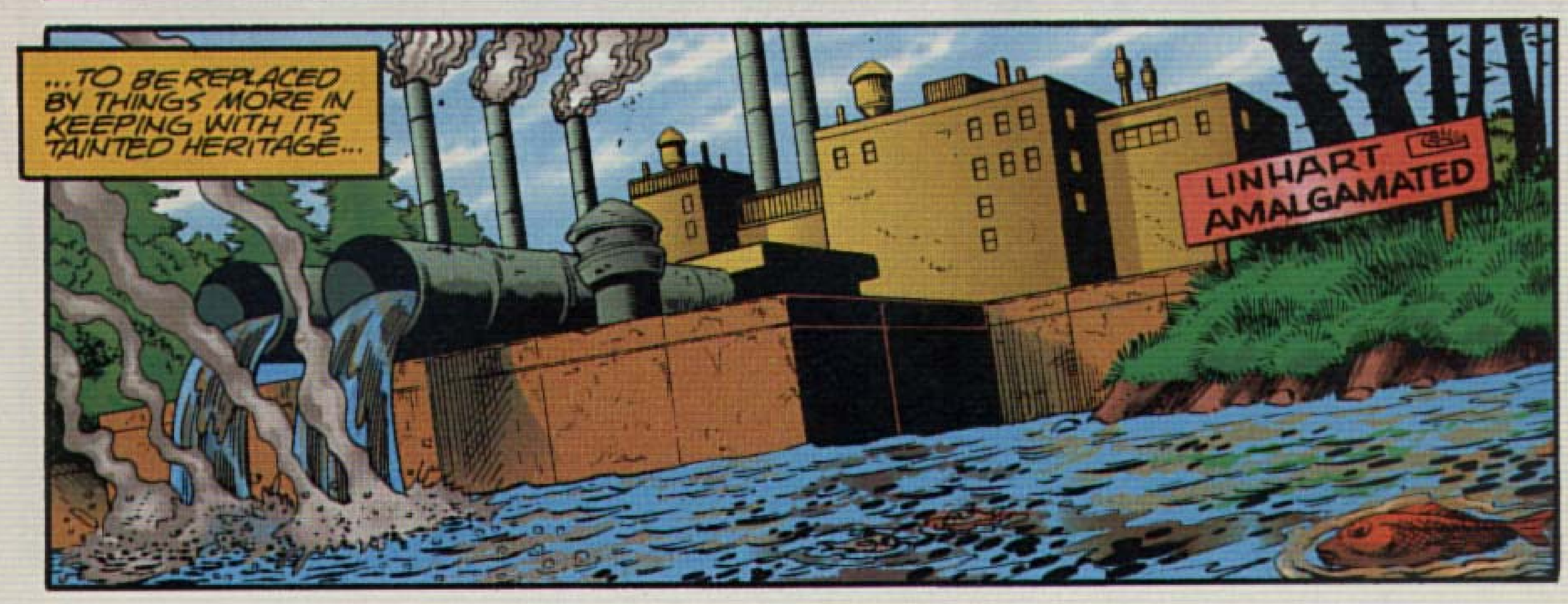
First Printing. Printed in Canada.




ONCE, NOT SO LONG AGO, CRYSTAL LAKE WAS A PLACE WHERE PEOPLE CAME TO ENJOY SUMMER'S IDYLL, TO SEE NATURE'S BEAUTY, AND... MAYBE... TO FALL IN LOVE...


BUT THAT WAS BEFORE JASON.
WELCOME to CAMP CRYSTAL LAKE


NOW JASON'S EVIL... HIS UNDYING HATRED OF THOSE WHO LIVE AND LOVE... HANGS OVER THE LAKE AND THE SURROUNDING COUNTRYSIDE. THE LAUGHTER OF CAMPERS ENJOYING SUMMER'S PLEASURES IS GONE FOREVER...


...TO BE REPLACED BY THINGS MORE IN KEEPING WITH ITS TAINTED HERITAGE...
LINHART AMALGAMATED


TRAPPED.

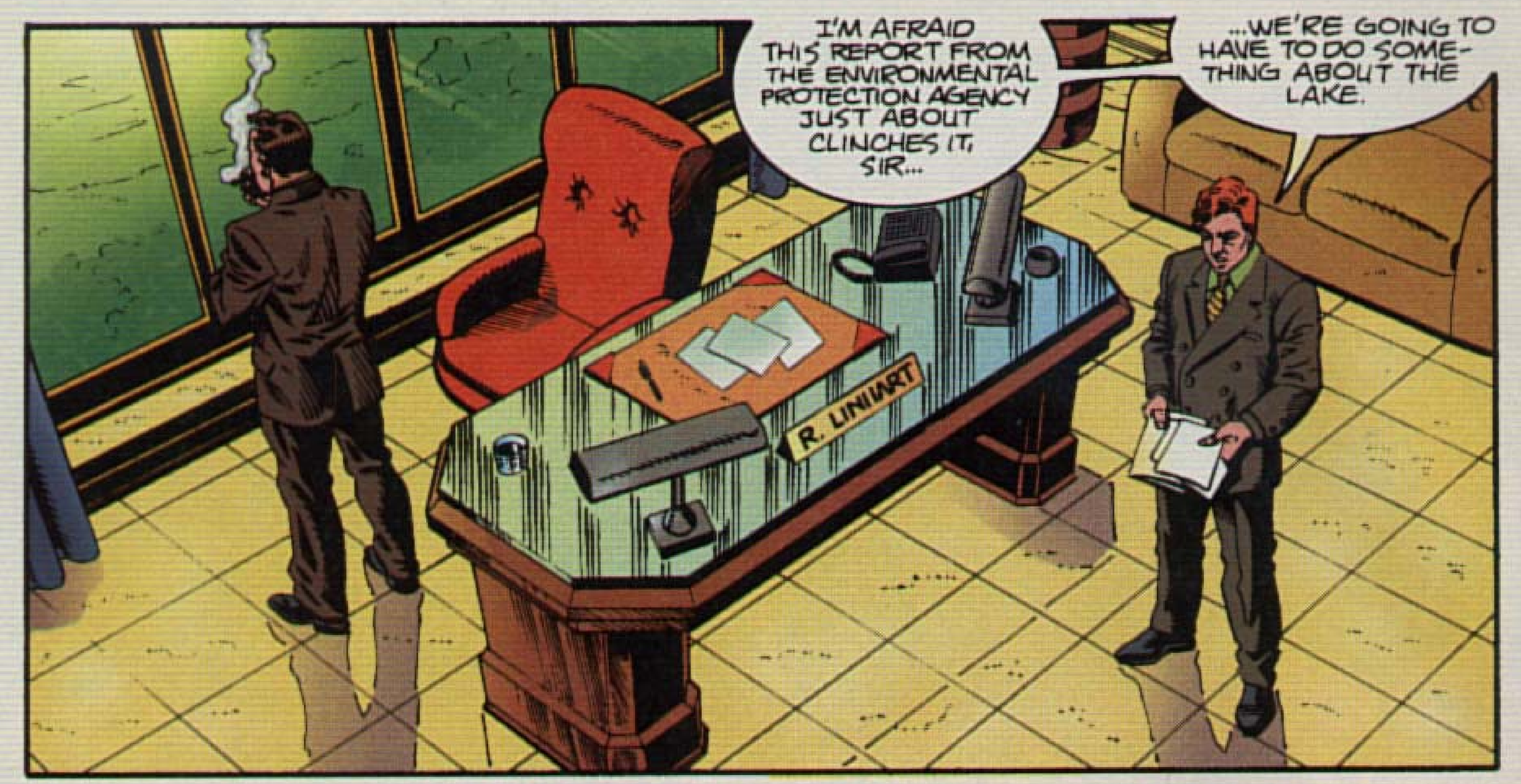

HE HAS BEEN TRAPPED HERE FOR... HOW LONG? WEEKS? MONTHS? DECADES? HE HAS NO WAY OF KNOWING, NOR DOES HE CARE. TIME MEANS NOTHING TO HIM. ALL THAT MATTERS IS VENGEANCE.


THEY'RE OUT THERE... HE CAN FEEL THEM...
THEY'RE OUT THERE, IN THE LIGHT, WHILE HE REMAINS HIDDEN, CONDEMNED TO THE SHADOWS; HIS NAME AND DEEDS SPOKEN OF IN WHISPERS, IF MENTIONED AT ALL.
AND HE KNOWS THIS WOULD STILL BE TRUE EVEN IF HE HAD NOT DROWNED IN THIS VERY LAKE TWENTY YEARS BEFORE.


THEY MUST BE PUNISHED. ALL OF THEM. ALL OF THOSE WHO DARE TO LIVE AND LOVE AND DARE TO BE HAPPY WHEN HE CAN NEVER KNOW THESE THINGS.

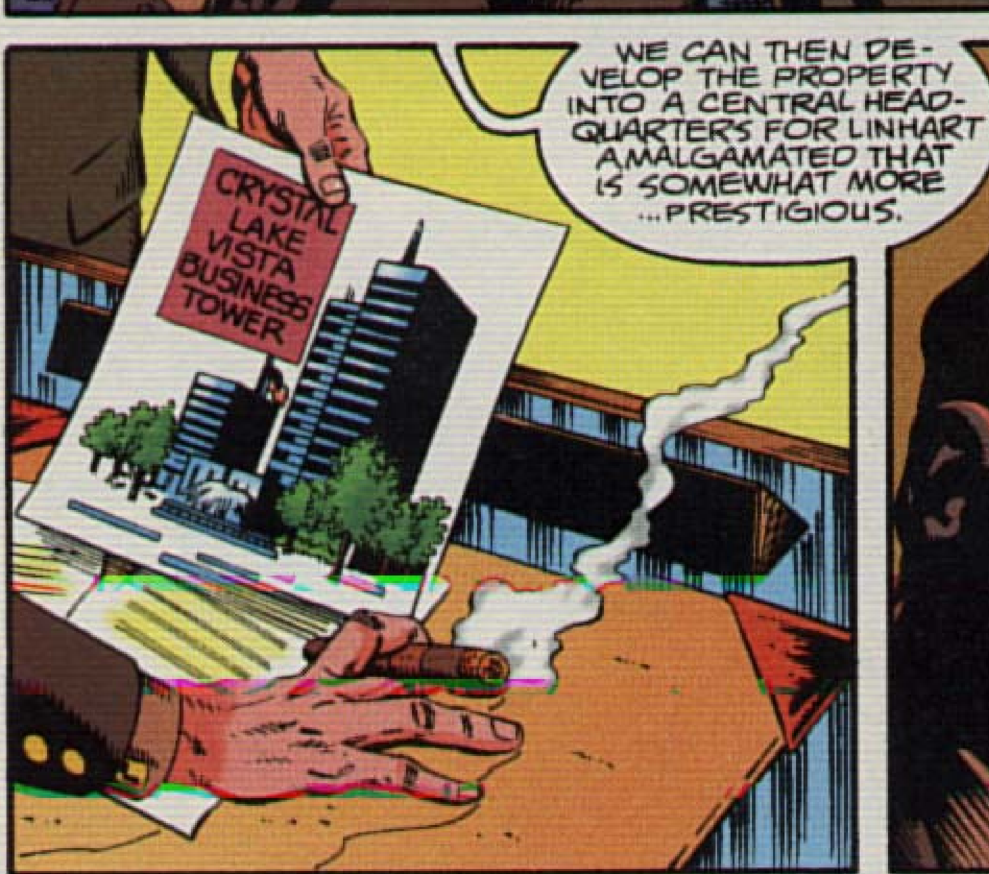

HE MUST BE PATIENT. HE HAS HAD TO WAIT BEFORE. TIME IS MEANINGLESS TO ONE SUCH AS HE.
AND AFTER ALL...


HE HAS HIS HATE TO KEEP HIM WARM.
GOIN' SOUTH

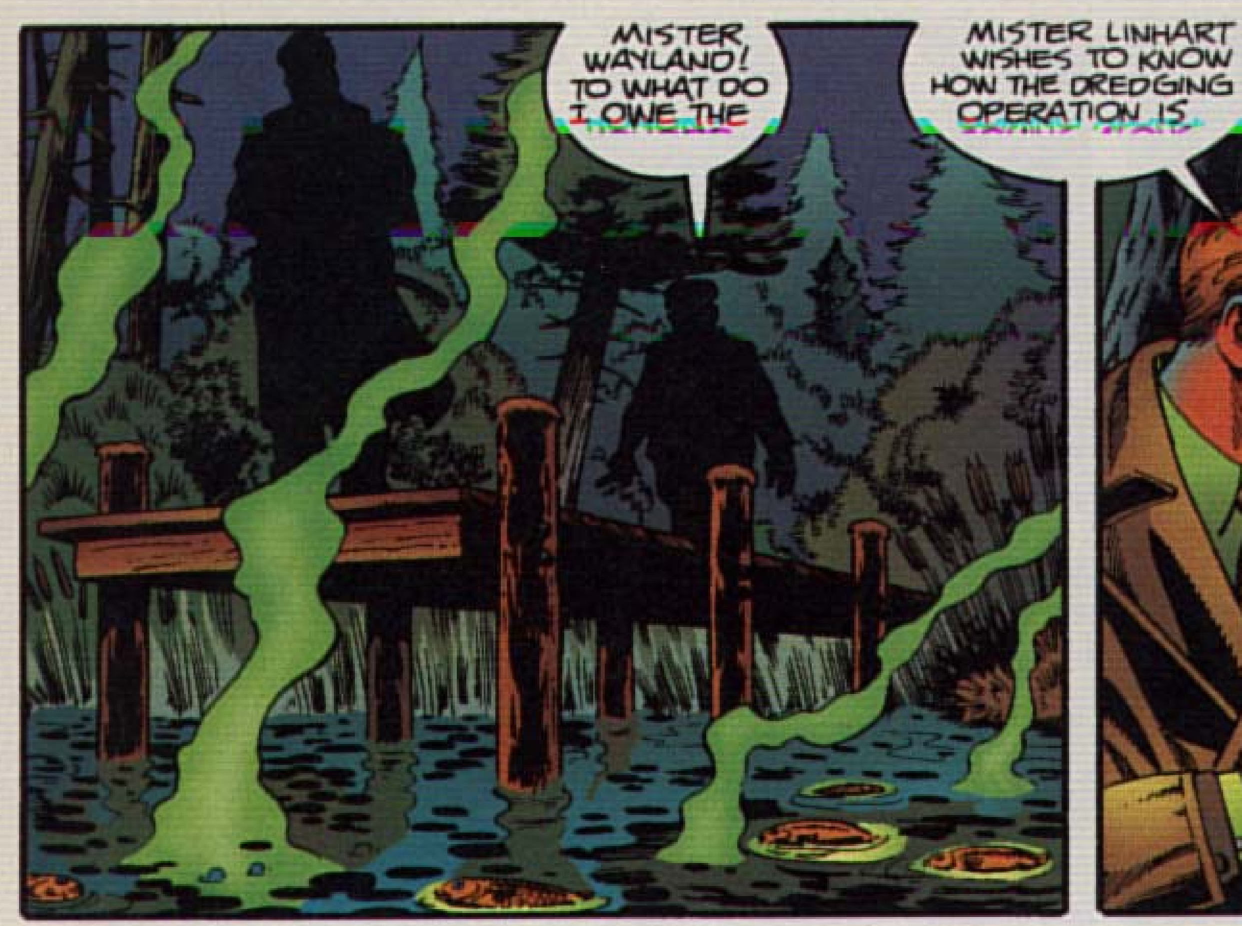

I'M AFRAID THIS REPORT FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY JUST ABOUT CLINCHES IT, SIR...
...WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THE LAKE.
R. LINHART


OH? AND WHAT DO YOU SUGGEST "WE" DO, WAYLAND?

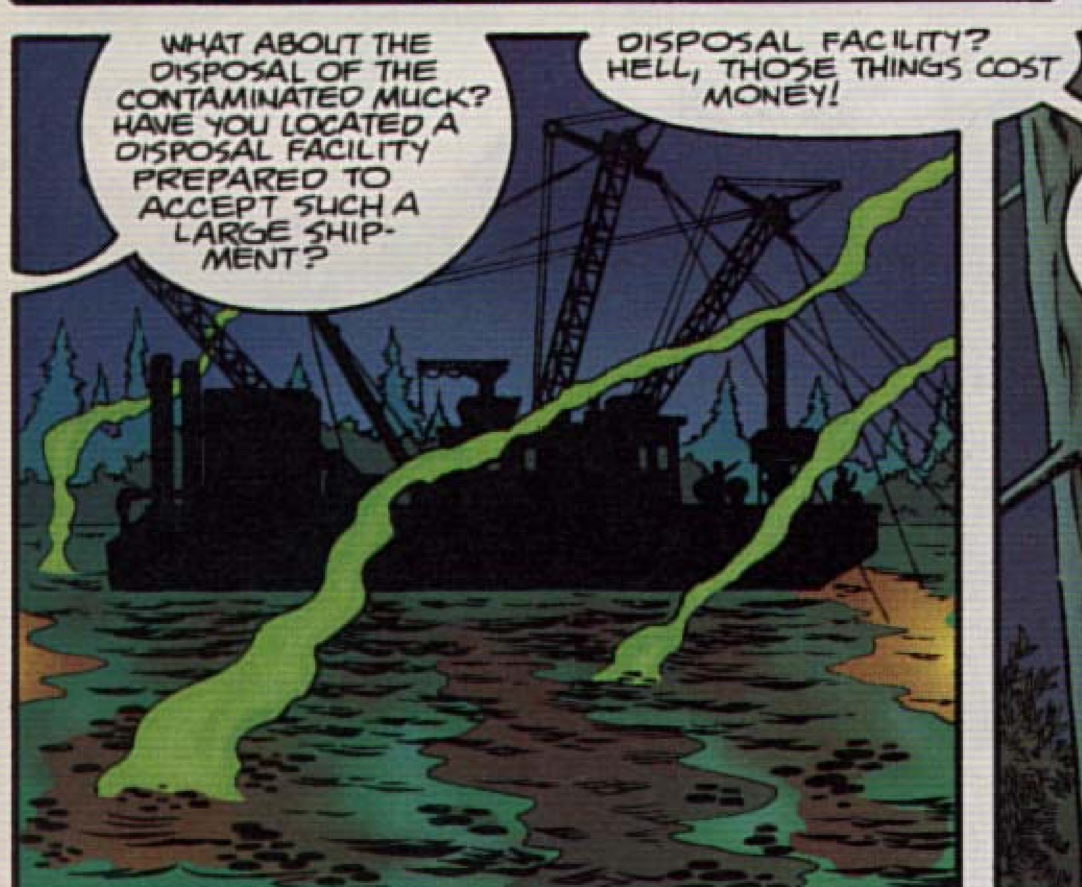

SINCE WE'VE ALREADY DECIDED TO RELOCATE THE PLANT TO MEXICO, CRYSTAL LAKE ISN'T *NEEDED* ANY MORE, IS IT?
AND SINCE IT'S WAY TOO POLLUTED TO BE SUCCESSFULLY REHABILITATED, THE COST-EFFECTIVE THING TO DO WOULD BE...
...TO FIRST DREDGE, THEN DRAIN THE LAKE...


WE CAN THEN DEVELOP THE PROPERTY INTO A CENTRAL HEADQUARTERS FOR LINHART AMALGAMATED THAT IS SOMEWHAT MORE ...PRESTIGIOUS.
CRYSTAL LAKE VISTA BUSINESS TOWER


WAYLAND... I LIKE THE WAY YOU THINK!


MISTER WAYLAND! TO WHAT DO I OWE THE


MISTER LINHART WISHES TO KNOW HOW THE DREDGING OPERATION IS
YOU FORESEE NO FURTHER DELAYS, I
NONE WHATSO-EVER.
THINGS ARE RUNNIN' SMOOTHER THAN A BABY'S BUTT!


WHAT ABOUT THE DISPOSAL OF THE CONTAMINATED MUCK? HAVE YOU LOCATED A DISPOSAL FACILITY PREPARED TO ACCEPT SUCH A LARGE SHIP-MENT?
DISPOSAL FACILITY? HELL, THOSE THINGS COST MONEY!


BUT THIS IS TOXIC WASTE!
LOOK, YOUR COMPANY DIDN'T HIRE ME BECAUSE I'M POLITICALLY CORRECT. IT HIRED ME BECAUSE I'M CHEAP!


THEY DON'T CALL ME "MIDNIGHT" 'CAUSE I BURN THE OIL.
BELIEVE ME, THE LESS YOU AND YOUR BOSSES KNOW ABOUT WHAT I DO--AND HOW I DO IT--THE BETTER OFF YOU ARE. THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE PAYING FOR--RIGHT?

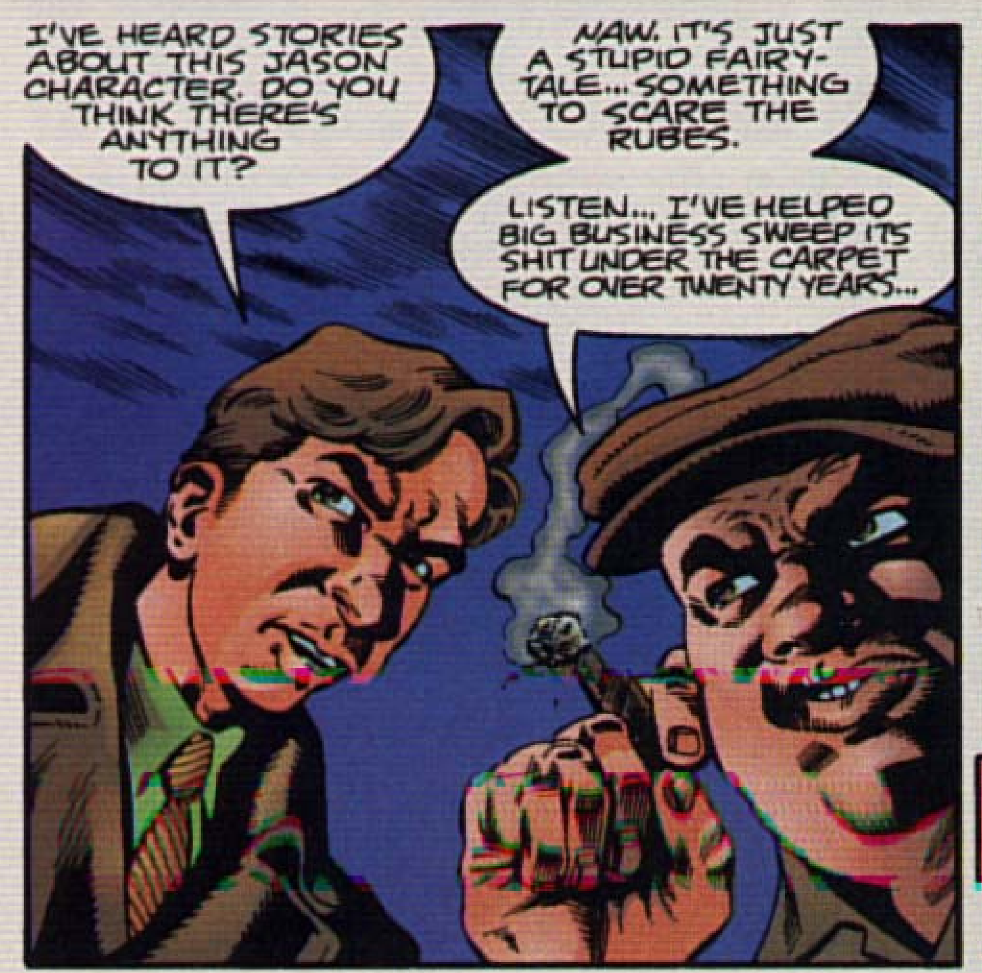

FOOLS!


YOU'RE FOOLS, ALL OF YOU!
YOU'LL WAKE HIM UP WITH ALL THIS MUCKING ABOUT!

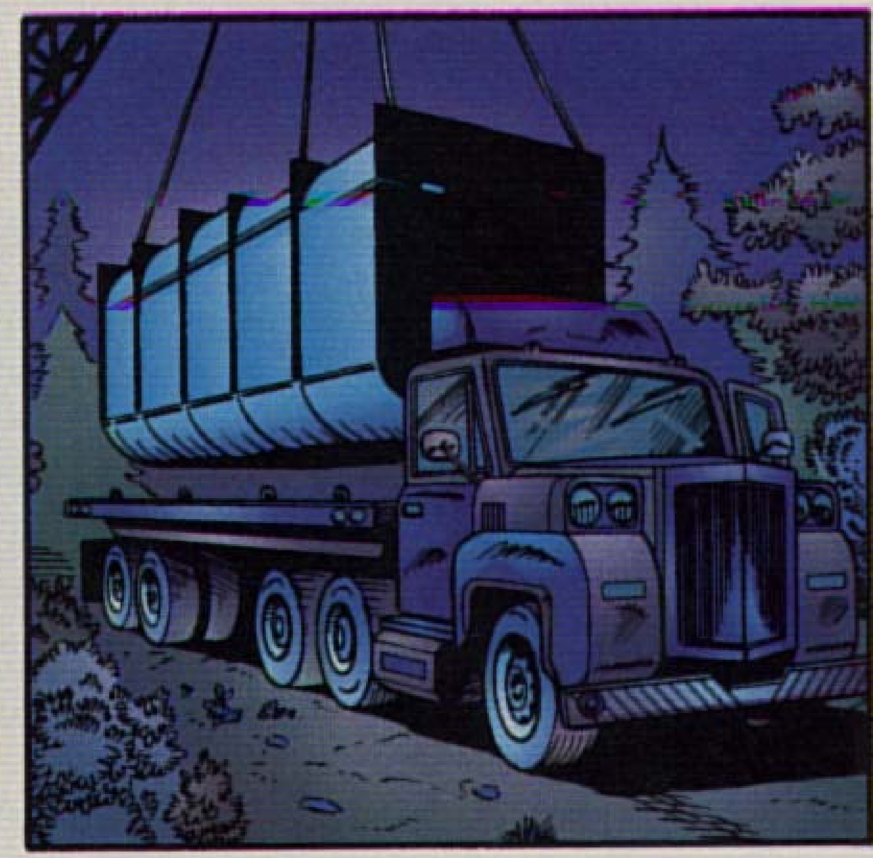
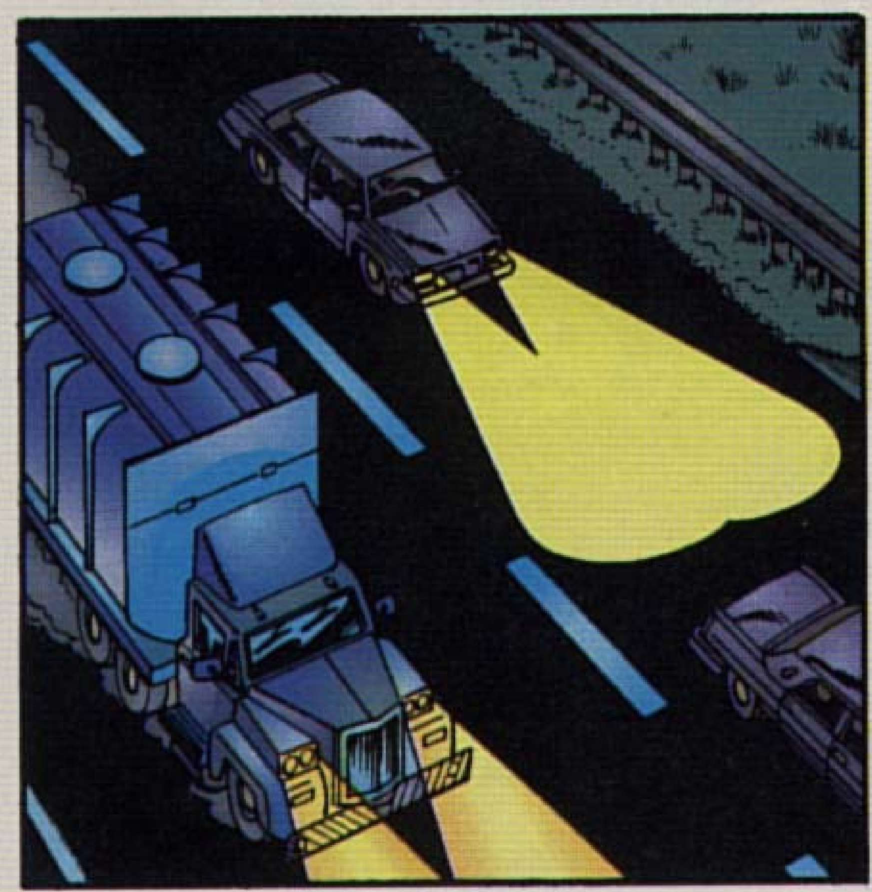
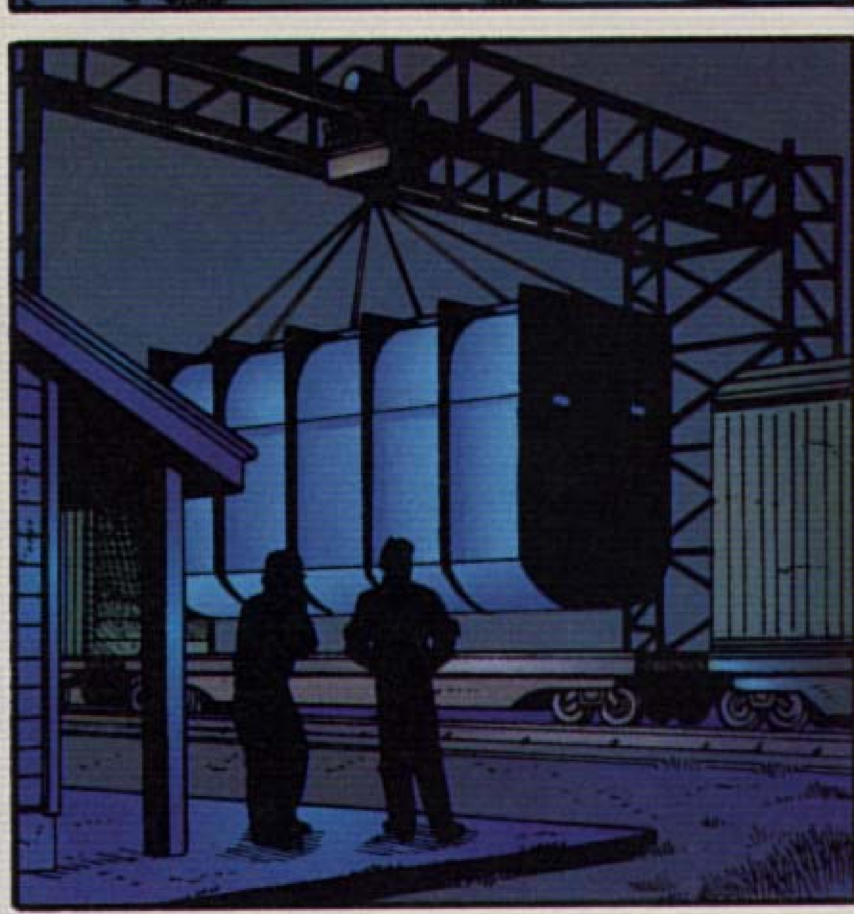

WAKE UP WHO?


JASON, THAT'S WHO!
HE LIVES IN THE WATER--WAITIN' FOR THOSE WHO MAKE THE MISTAKE OF COMING TO CRYSTAL LAKE FOR THE SUMMER.


C'MON, GRAMPS! TIME TO GO HOME!
HE'LL KILL YOU ALL! MARK MY WORDS! JASON WILL KILL YOU ALL!
DON'T PAY HIM NO NEVER-MIND, SIR. HE'S JUST SOME NUTTY LOCAL-YOKEL, THAT'S ALL.


I'VE HEARD STORIES ABOUT THIS JASON CHARACTER. DO YOU THINK THERE'S ANYTHING TO IT?
NAW. IT'S JUST A STUPID FAIRY-TALE... SOMETHING TO SCARE THE RUBES.
LISTEN... I'VE HELPED BIG BUSINESS SWEEP ITS SHIT UNDER THE CARPET FOR OVER TWENTY YEARS...


WHERE ALL THE BODIES ARE BURIED?"

CHUF
CHUF
CHUF
CHUF
CHUF






-HUFF!- BARELY MADE IT THAT TIME! -HUFF!-
WE'RE GETTIN' TOO OLD FOR THIS...



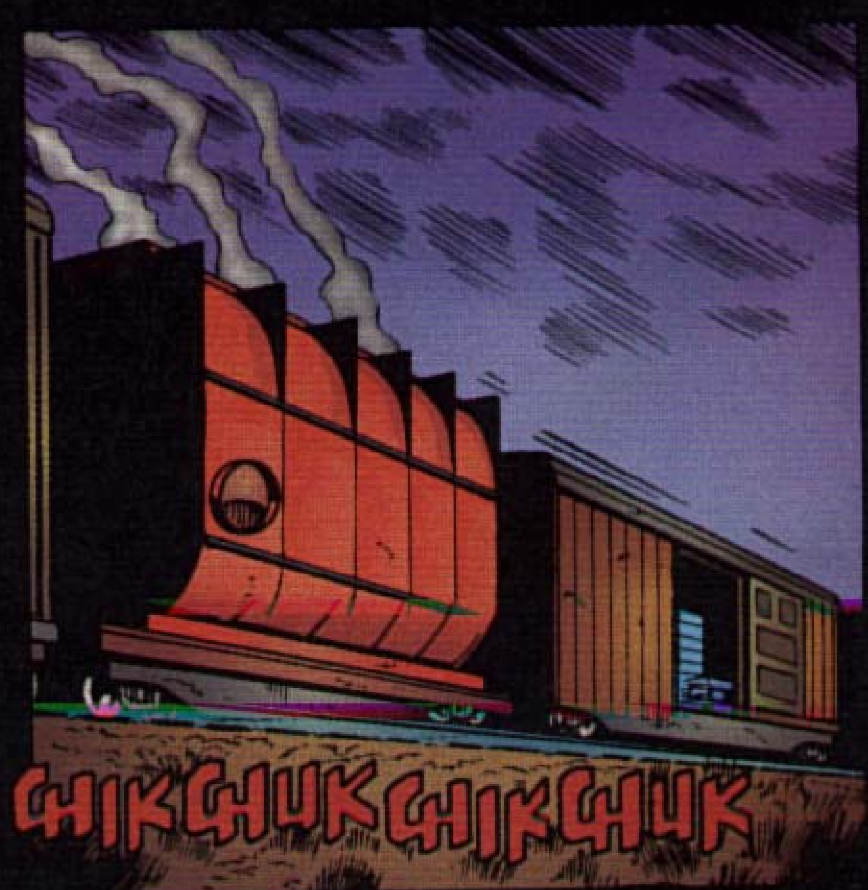
AIN'T THAT SO, WINKY?
WOOF!



WE BEEN ON THE ROAD TOGETHER--WHAT? EIGHT YEARS?
WOOF!
YOU'RE RIGHT--IT'S BEEN NINE YEARS. MY MISTAKE.



HOLD ON, WINKY! THIS HERE'S TUESDAY! YOU KNOW BATH DAY'S...
SLURP
...NOT 'TIL SATURDAY!



CHIK CHUK CHIK CHUK


BANG BANG

KRANG

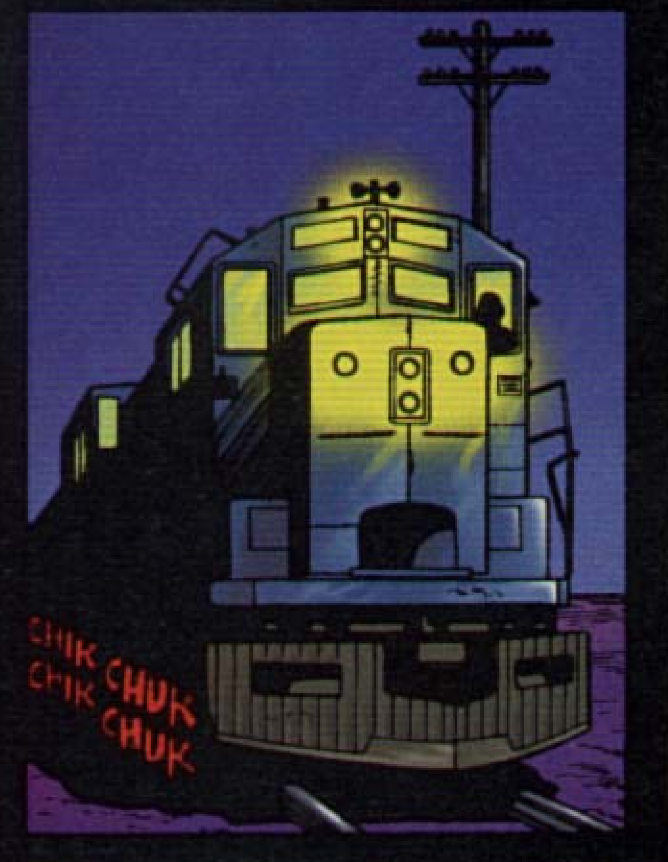

WHA--?



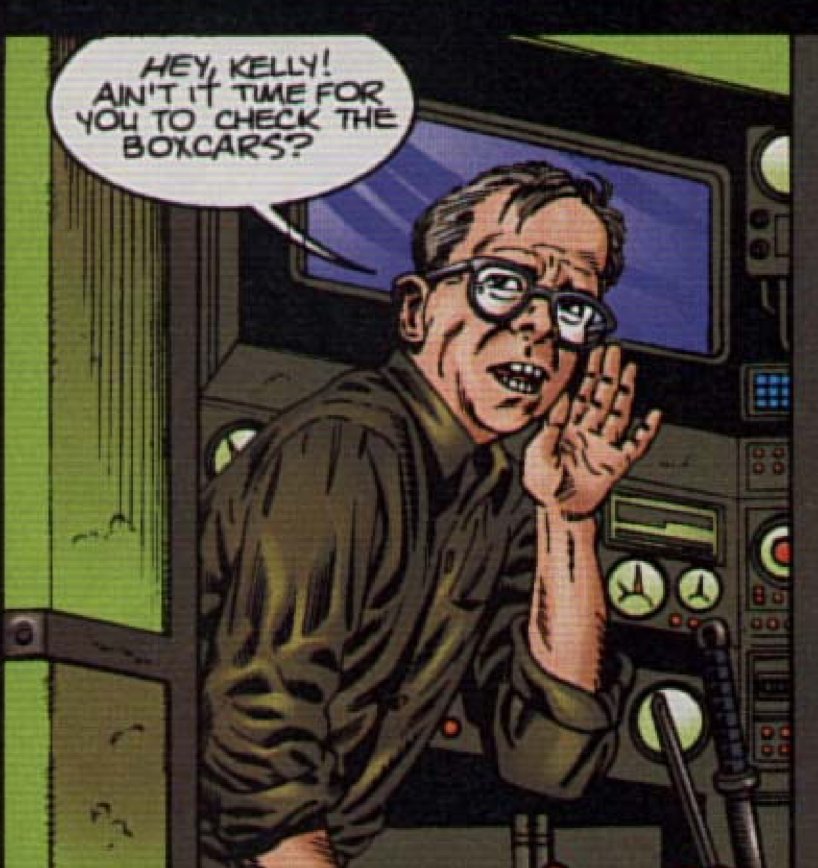

HOWDY, BO'!
M'NAME'S BOZ. THIS HERE'S WINKY.
WHERE YA HEADED?
SILENT TYPE, EH?
CARE FOR A SNORT, BIG FELLA?
AAAHH!
MY HAND--!
YOU CHOPPED OFF M' HAND!
YAP
YAP
WHY'D YOU CHOP OFF M'HAND? I NEVER DONE YOU NO HARM, BO...
WHY'D YOU DO IT?



WHY...?
LOP
THUNK
FERTI
GRRRR
GRRRRR
YIPE


CHIK CHUK
CHIK CHUK


ANY CLUBS?
GO FISH!


HEY, KELLY! AIN'T IT TIME FOR YOU TO CHECK THE BOXCARS?


WAIT 'TIL I FINISH THIS HAND... HELL, ALL WE'RE DOIN' IS HAULIN' DIRT TO SOME LANDFILL IN NEW MEXICO. AIN'T LIKE ANYONE'S GONNA STEAL ANYTHING!
SO A COUPLE OF HOBOS WILL GET TO RIDE ANOTHER TEN MILES FOR FREE...


OOF!
KRANGG




WHAT TH--?


SNAP
AWK!
MOTHER OF GOD--!


YOU CRAZY SON OF A BITCH!
WHACK


WHAT IN HELL DO YOU THINK YOU'RE--?


SHLUCK
HEY, KELLY!
WHAT THE HELL'S GOING ON BACK--


--THERRE!
SSKREEE
SKRAWK
VWAM
CRANK
WHOMP
BWAM
KAVOOOMM






HOWDY!
WELCOME TO
SAWYERVILL
HOME OF THE BEST
BAR-B-QUE IN TEXAS


-HUFF- HUFF-
GOD, PLEASE DON'T LET THEM FIND ME!


PLEASE, JESUS-- IF YOU JUST LET ME LIVE-- I'LL DO WHATEVER YOU WANT ME TO!
I'LL STOP DRINKIN'-- SWEARIN'-- SCREWIN' AROUND-- YOU NAME IT!


WHOOF!




HELP ME! PLEASE, MISTER, YOU GOTTA HELP ME!
THERE ARE THESE CRAZY PEOPLE CHASING ME! I DIDN'T DO NOTHING! I JUST STOPPED FOR SOME BAR-B-QUE, THAT'S ALL--AND NOW THEY'RE TRYING TO--TO--


FOR THE LOVE OF GOD, YOU'VE GOTTA HELP ME!


OH, SHIT...


OOOEEE!
DOG WILL HUNT!


LOOKY WHAT GOT HERE, BUBBA! ANOTHER INGREDIENT!


LEATHERFACE, YOU BITCH! WHERE THE HELL ARE YOU, BOY?
I SAID WE GOT OURSELVES SOME MORE MEAT ON THE HOOF!


VRUP
R-RUP
RUP
OH, GOD, NO!
R-RUP
R-RUP
VRRUP
RRUP
VRRR

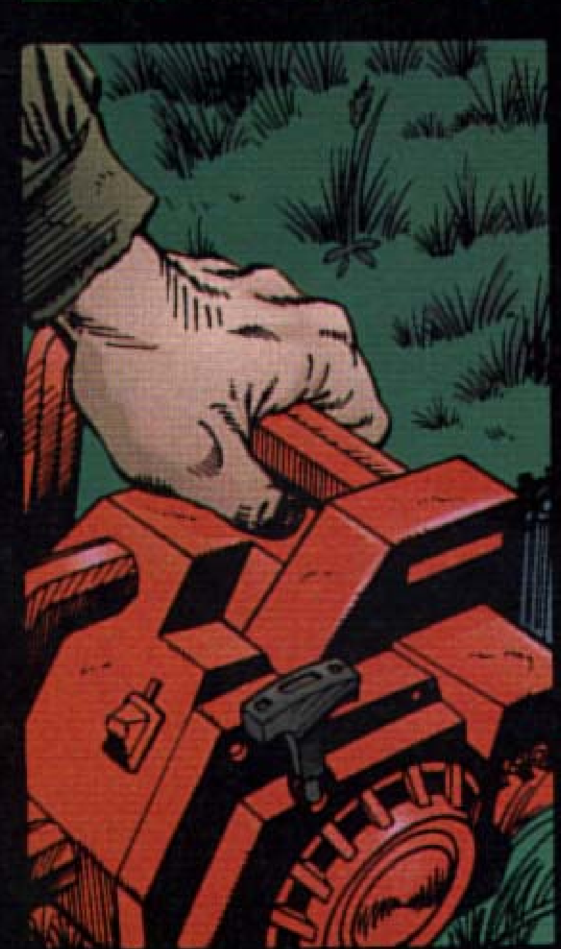

RUPP RUPP
GIT 'IM, LEATHERFACE! GIT THAT SUMBITCH!


RRUP RRUPP
RRUP RRUPP RRUP
SPRANG
VRUP VRUP VRUP
SHIT-FIRE! HE GOT THE SAW!


NOOO!

N-NOOOO!

SHPLOK





TH' NAME IS HITCHHIKER. AND YOU'RE--?
BIG TALKER, HUH? WELL, IT DON'T MATTER NONE! YOU'RE OUR KIND O' PEOPLE, WHOEVER Y'ARE!

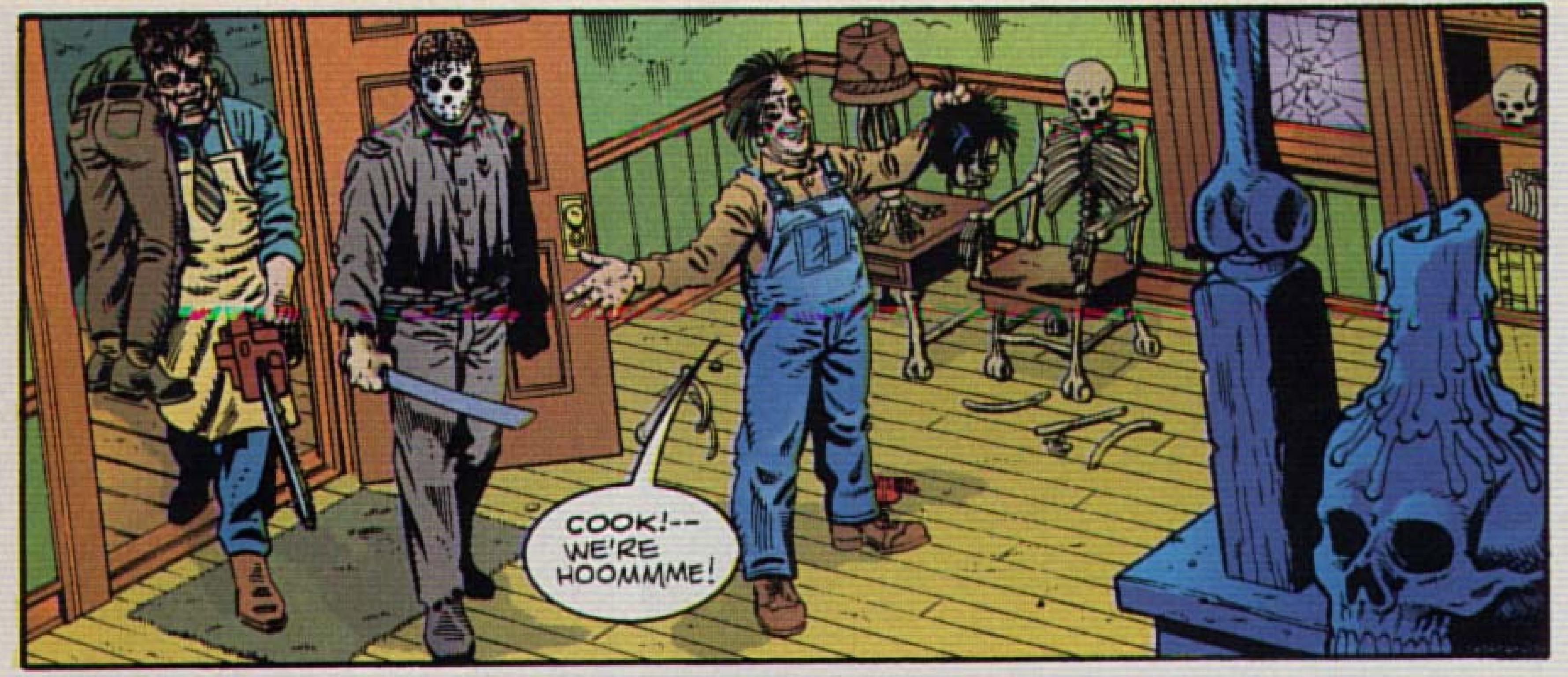
AIN'T THAT SO, BUBBA?
DON'T MIND LEATHERFACE NONE. HE'S JUST PISSED ON ACCOUNT OF YOU GETTIN' TH' CHAINSAW AWAY FROM HIM.

DON'T WANT TO FORGET THE HEAD-CHEESE.

HE COULD HAVE KILLED THEM BOTH. BUT HE DIDN'T. WHY?
WE DON'T GIT MANY FOLKS STOPPIN' BY NOW-ADAYS... BUT YER WELCOME TO VISIT, IF YOU LIKE!
HELL, GRAN'PA AND W.E. WILL BE TICKLED PINK TO HAVE THE COMPANY.
THE EMOTIONS THAT FILL JASON RIGHT NOW ARE ALIEN TO HIM AS THEY ARE NOT HATE OR ANGER.
HE IS UNCERTAIN AS TO HOW HE SHOULD ACT.






COOK!-- WE'RE HOOMMME!


ABOUT DAMN TIME! DINNER'S ALMOST READY--
KISS
COOK


HITCHHIKER! GAWD-DAMMIT, BOY! WHAT'D I TELL YOU ABOUT BRINGIN' FOLKS BACK TO THE HOUSE UNANNOUNCED?!?
OWWWW!


DAMN YOUR EYES, COOK! YOU GOT NO CALL TO TREAT ME LIKE THAT!
'SIDES, THIS FELLER'S DIFFERENT! HE AIN'T MEAT! HE'S ONE O' US!


SEE?
KISS


SON, DID YOU DO THIS?


SURE, HE DID IT! WOULD I LIE TO YOU, BUBBA?
NOT ONLY THAT--HE GOT LEATHERFACE'S CHAINSAW AWAY FROM HIM, TOO!

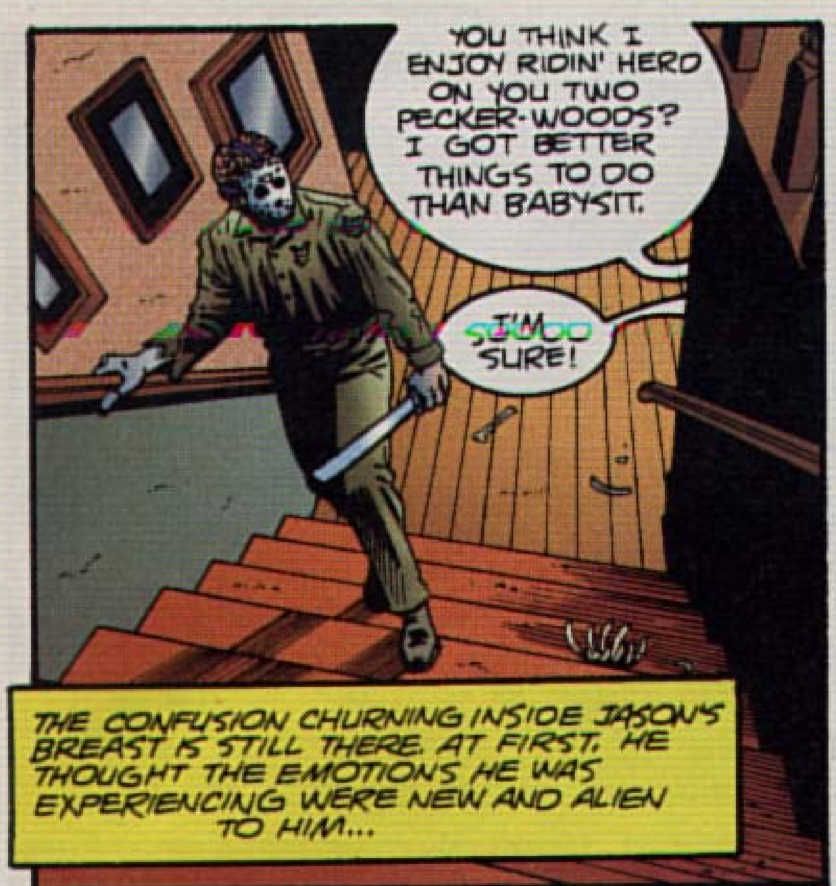

LEATHERFACE-- IS THIS TRUE?!?

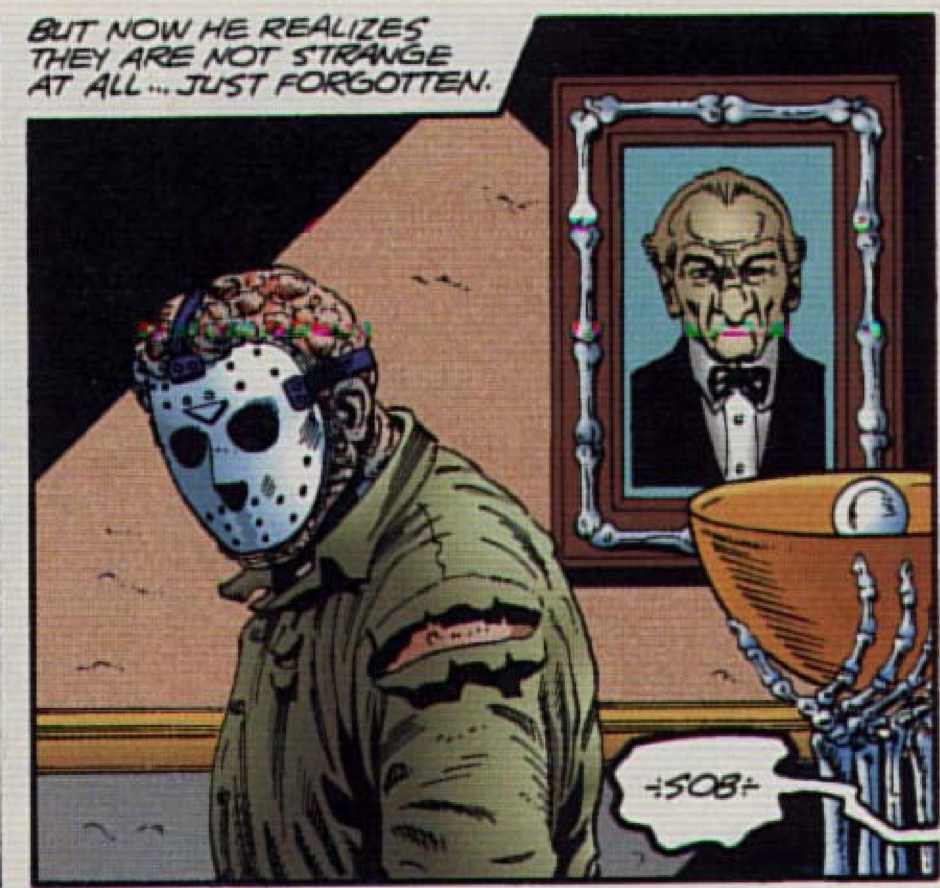

HEE-HEE! IT SURE IS! YOU SHOULDA SEEN IT, COOK! HE TOOK THAT CHAINSAW AWAY JUST LIKE TAKIN' CANDY FROM A BIG, OL', UGLY BABY!


AAARRRR!

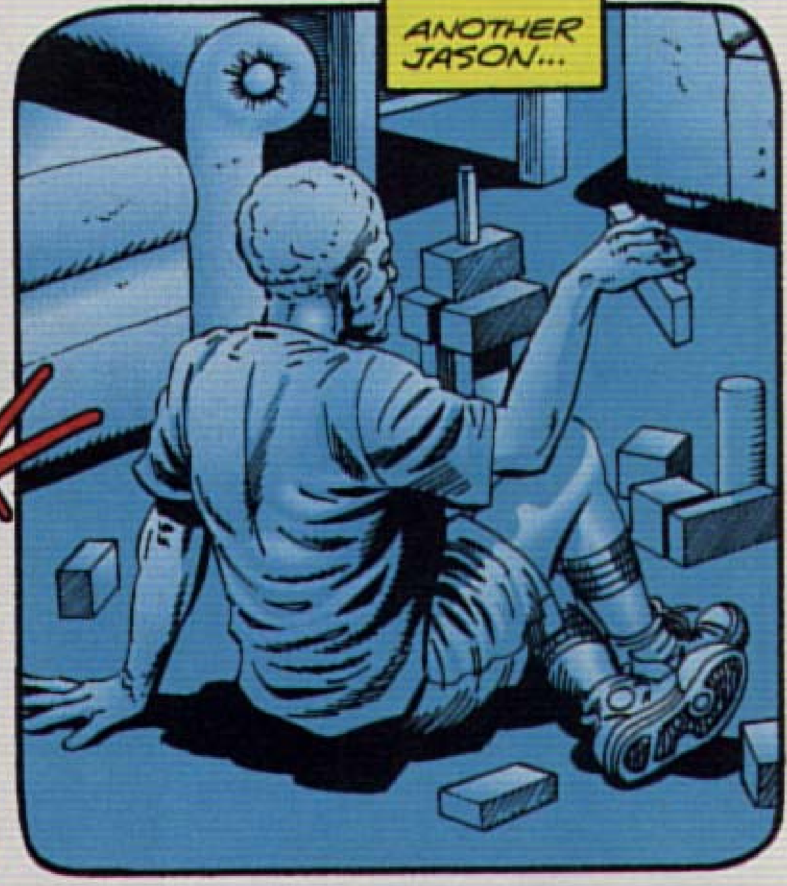

DAMNIT, HITCHHIKER! YOU KNOW HOW SENSITIVE HE IS! YOU GO UP THERE RIGHT NOW AND APOLOGIZE TO YOUR BROTHER!
KISS THE

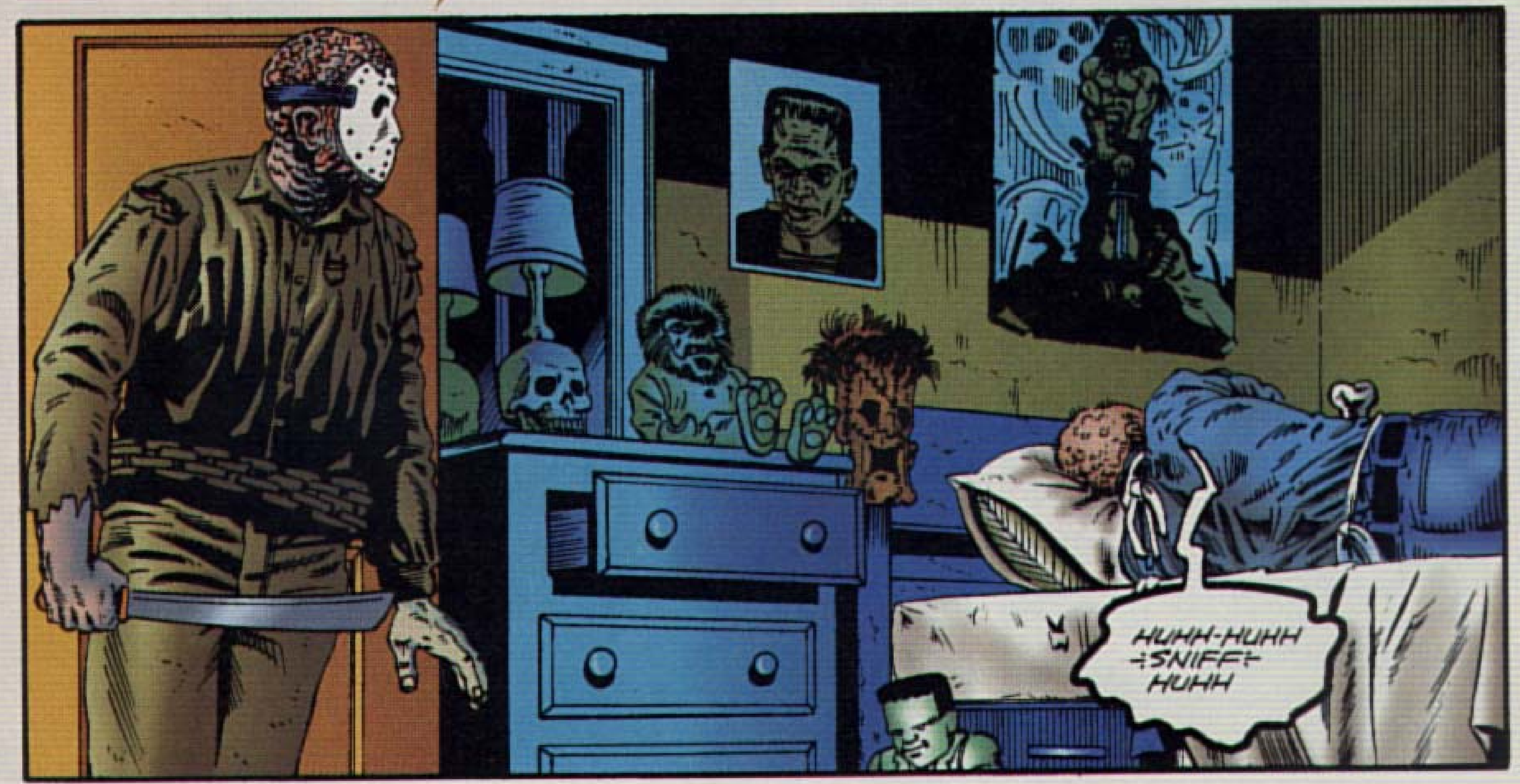

LIKE HELL I WILL!
YOU'RE ALWAYS STICKIN' UP FOR LEATHER-FACE ON ACCOUNT OF HIM BEIN' THE YOUNGEST! HE'S JUST A DAMN BIG BABY!


YOU THINK I ENJOY RIDIN' HERD ON YOU TWO PECKER-WOODS? I GOT BETTER THINGS TO DO THAN BABYSIT.
I'M SOOOO SURE!
THE CONFUSION CHURNING INSIDE JASON'S BREAST IS STILL THERE. AT FIRST, HE THOUGHT THE EMOTIONS HE WAS EXPERIENCING WERE NEW AND ALIEN TO HIM...


BUT NOW HE REALIZES THEY ARE NOT STRANGE AT ALL... JUST FORGOTTEN.
÷SOB÷


÷SOB÷ ÷BLUBBER÷
NOT ENTER
KREEEK
THEY ARE EMOTIONS THAT BELONG TO ANOTHER TIME... ANOTHER PLACE...


ANOTHER JASON...

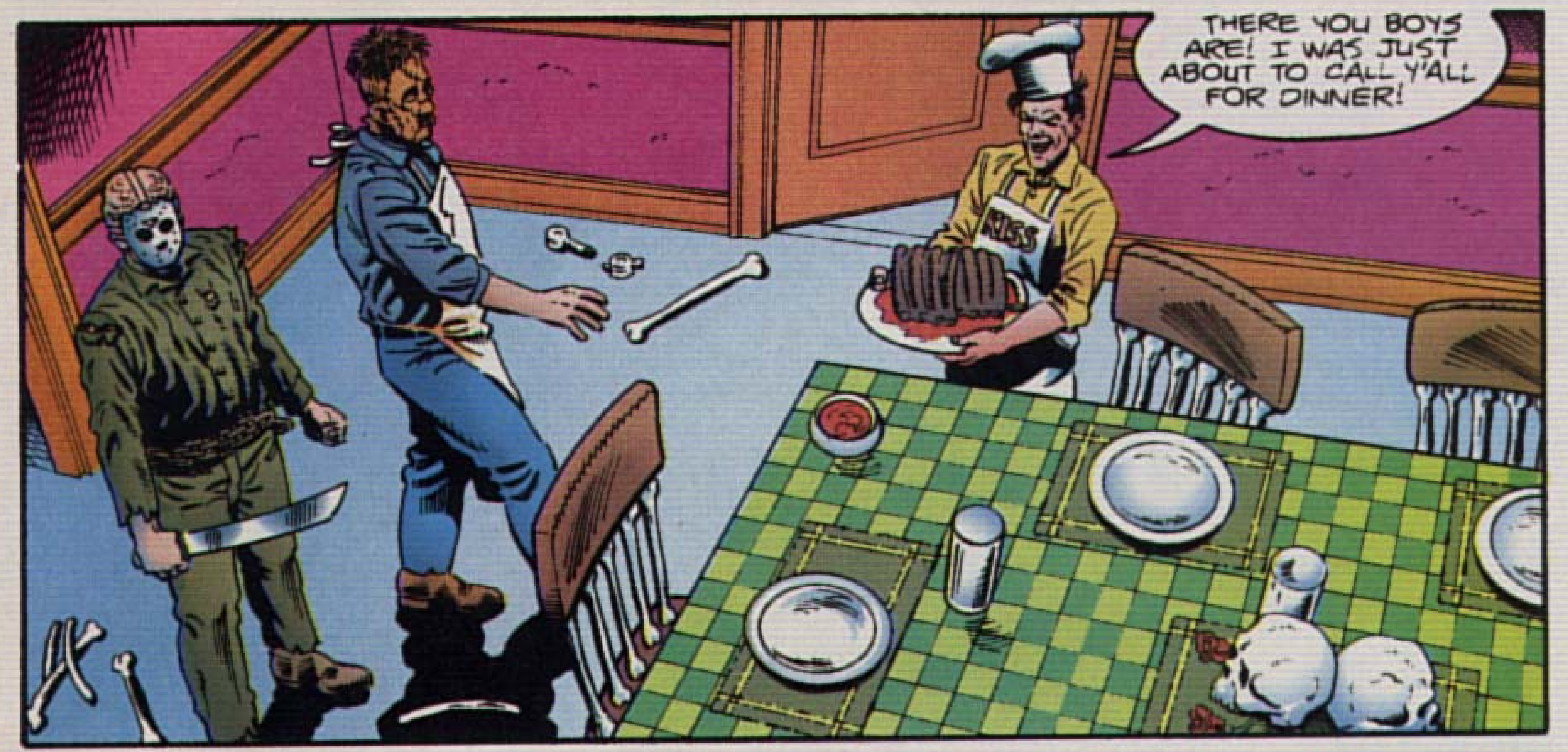

HUHH-HUHH ÷SNIFF÷ HUHH



HUHN?



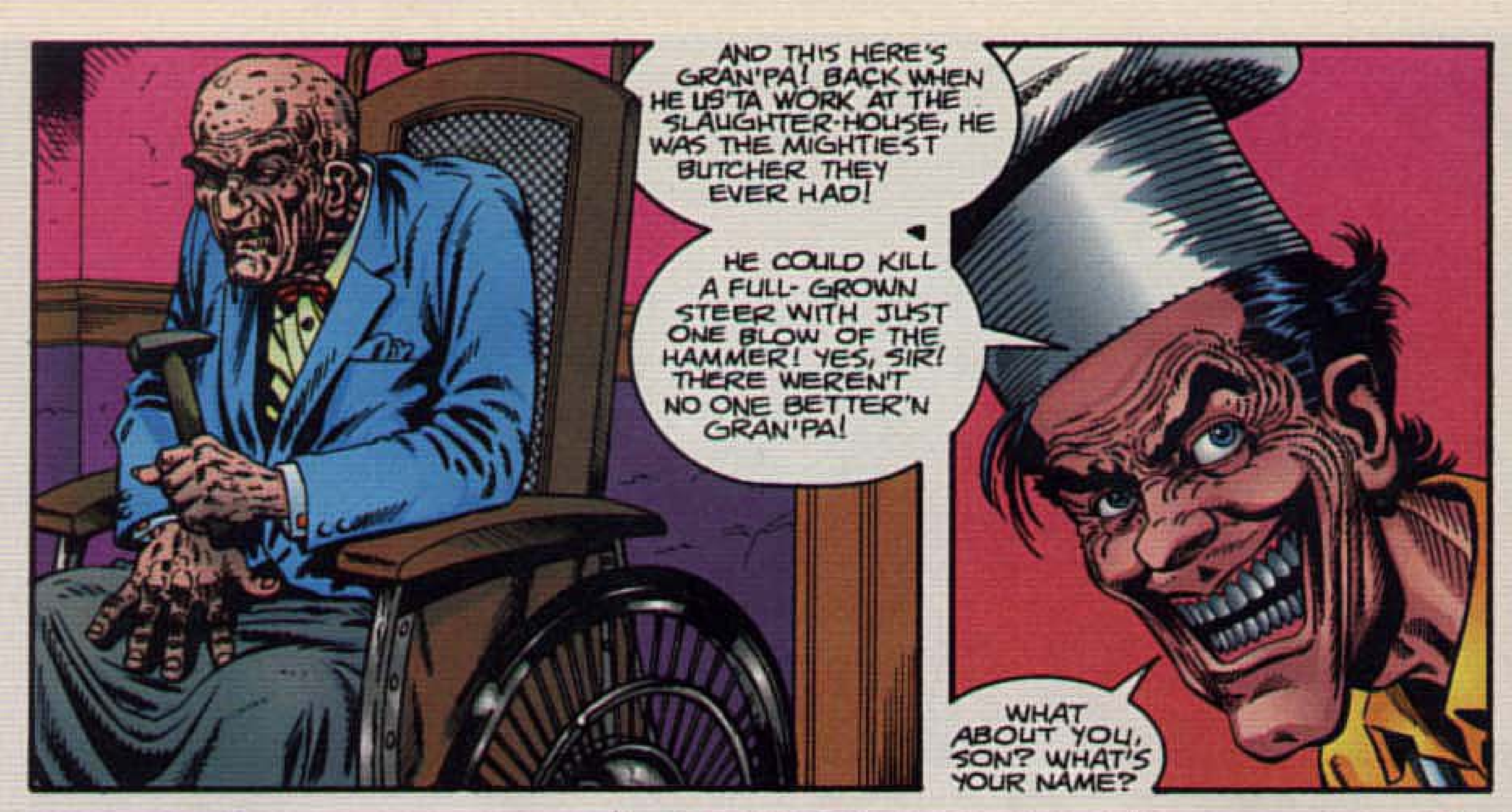



THERE YOU BOYS ARE! I WAS JUST ABOUT TO CALL Y'ALL FOR DINNER!
KISS


I CAN'T TELL YOU HOW HAPPY I AM TO SEE YOU AN' LEATHER-FACE HITTIN' IT OFF!
I CAN TELL BY LOOKIN' AT YOU Y'ALL HAVE, YOU KNOW, LOTS IN COMMON!


HITCHHIKER! HURRY UP WITH THAT KOOL-AID! YOU'RE HOLDIN' UP DINNER!
HERE'S YOUR DAMNED KOOL-AID!
Y'HAPPY?


WHERE'S MY MANNERS? YOU MUST THINK WE WAS RAISED IN A BARN!
ALLOW ME TO INTRO-DUCE YOU TO THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY...
THAT THERE IS AUNT AMELIA. SHE DON'T MEAN TO BE UNSOCI-ABLE, BUT SHE FELL DOWN THE STAIRS A FEW YEARS AGO, AND SHE AIN'T BEEN THE SAME SINCE...

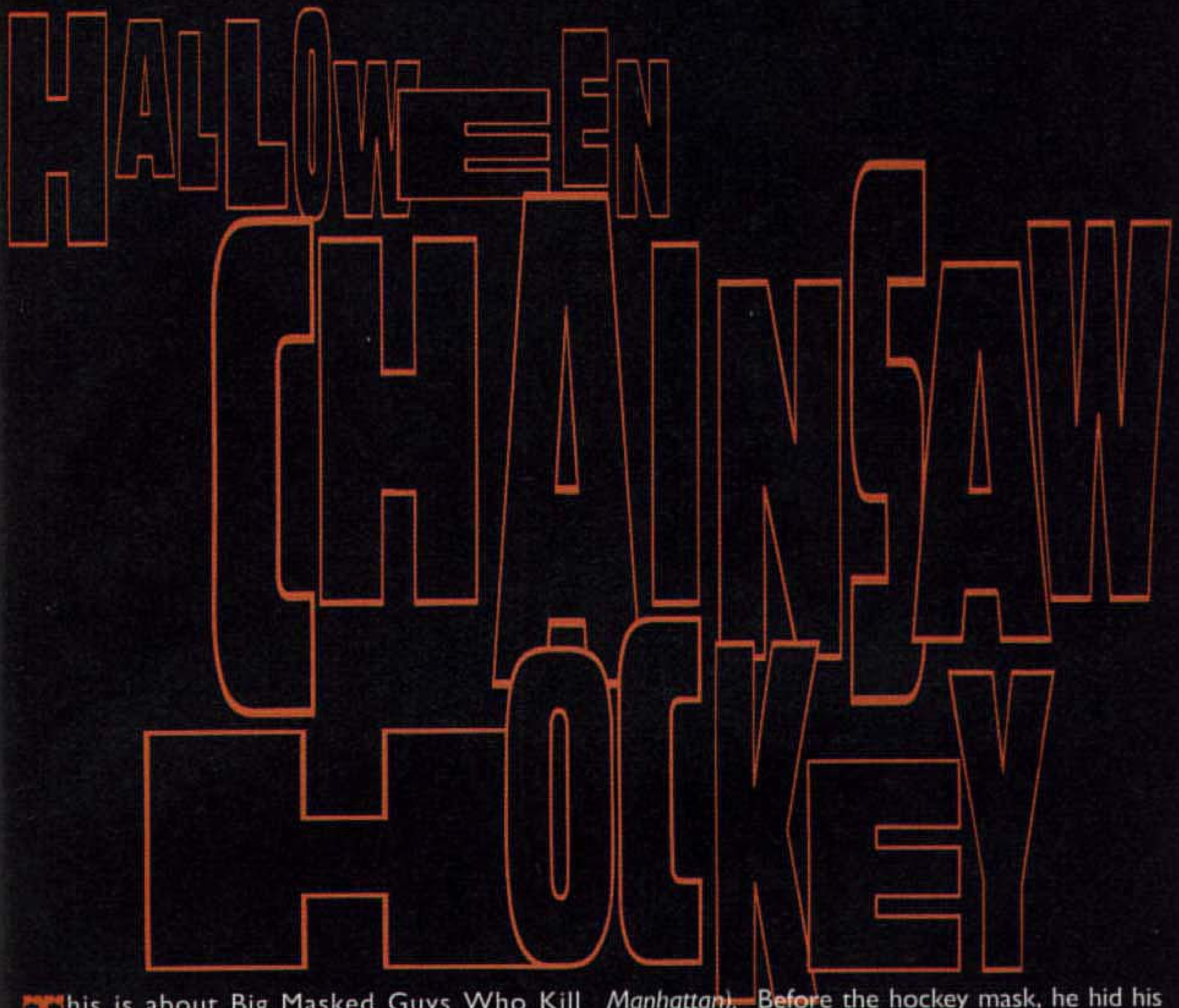








TO BE CONTINUED!



This is about Big Masked Guys Who Kill People in Movies, mainly Jason and Leatherface, but also their *Halloween* pal, Michael.

Why masks? To hide their faces, yes, but not to hide their identities (except maybe at first in Michael's case--ask Loomis).

For our Main Masked Three, masks do what the policeman's eye-hiding sunglasses did in *Psycho*. Their masks are mainly a power thing. They hide male emotions from their victims, in Michael's case actual tears *(Halloween 5)*. But Leatherface also wears a mask because (I guess) he needs a Face to give himself an identity (in the first *Chainsaw*, he changes clothes and masks for supper, serving dinner wearing a woman's face and wig--his mother's?). And Jason's face-hiding started (I imagine) in his childhood when he was probably made to feel ashamed of his Quasimodoesque appearance (I'm using the early versions of Jason's childhood image now, not the non-Quasimodoesque image from *Jason Takes Manhattan)*. Before the hockey mask, he hid his face by actually wearing a sack over his head, remember?

So, let's have a freshly sewn mask of human flesh for Leatherface, please, one healthy hockey hero's mask for Jason, and a dead white, trick-or-treat Halloween mask for Michael. Thanks. (Freddy? He has a nightmare of a sweater, a glove, hat, and a movie with Jason in the works, but no mask. Psycho Norman didn't have a mask, either, just a dress and wig.)

Speaking of serial killers, the real life serial killer/psycho killer movie connection goes way down deep. I've heard that *The Texas Chainsaw Massacre, Deranged, Psycho,* and other films were inspired by a real serial killer, Ed Gien.

Leatherface, like Ed, is obviously an extremely dangerous (and generally noisy, unlike the superbly sneaky Michael) critter, but evil? As in, does he think he is? I don't know how Ed felt, but I doubt Leatherface is burdened by a guilty conscience. He's just doin' things of which his

BY
C. DEAN ANDERSSON

kinfolk approve, workin' hard to make 'em proud of him. And that's scary. Kind of like trying to reason with a gang member onto whose turf you've mistakenly stumbled, because Leatherface's gang is his family, and his turf is his home.

It's been said that the most interesting (and usually scariest) villains in fiction (and real life) never see themselves as villains, and I think whoever said that first (no, I don't know who) was right, and Leatherface is certainly one of 'em, and a simple one at that. But after a simplistic start, Jason became increasingly complex.

At first, Jason was a villain for whom (like the Frankenstein monster) I could have sympathy, because at first he was such a victim himself, some kind of birth defect victim (evidently, again assuming the earlier image) for starters, then the victim of negligent teenaged camp councilors who let him drown in Crystal Lake because they were off making love instead of doing their life guarding job (life guarding... him... Jason vs. *Baywatch?*). Then, after his mom got herself killed avenging his death, Jason was such a good boy that he came back from the dead (or from his exile in the woods, depending upon what you believe – he could have come back to life and started living in that shed in the second Friday after his mother's death, yes?) to avenge mom like she'd been avenging him.



It was harder to feel sympathy for Jason when he became an unkillable death machine (Jason vs. The Terminator?) and began to decay. But any remaining sympathy vanished with *Jason Goes to Hell* when he started jumping from body to body. It made me begin to wonder if maybe he'd possessed (if he was dead) or telepathically controlled (if he was alive in the woods) his mom in the first place. Maybe that's why she started killing teenagers at Camp Crystal Lake. She talked to herself as if he were talking to her, remember? So, maybe he was always doing the killing. Could he have always been evil? If so, why?

Before *Jason Goes to Hell*, there were various possibilities. A birth defect due to a random genetic mutation. A drug taken while he was in the womb. A mutation caused by his dad being exposed to radiation tests during World War II. But after *JGTH*, there was only one answer that would do. What happened to Jason was Something Supernatural! Because...

Remember that dust-covered book with the ugly face on it in Jason's family's old house in *Jason Goes to Hell?* That was one of those Raimi-brand Necronomicon grimoires if ever I saw one, and I have, as have you, in the Evil Dead films. So! Is Jason one of the Evil Dead? Is that why nothing kills him? And where's Ash when you need him?

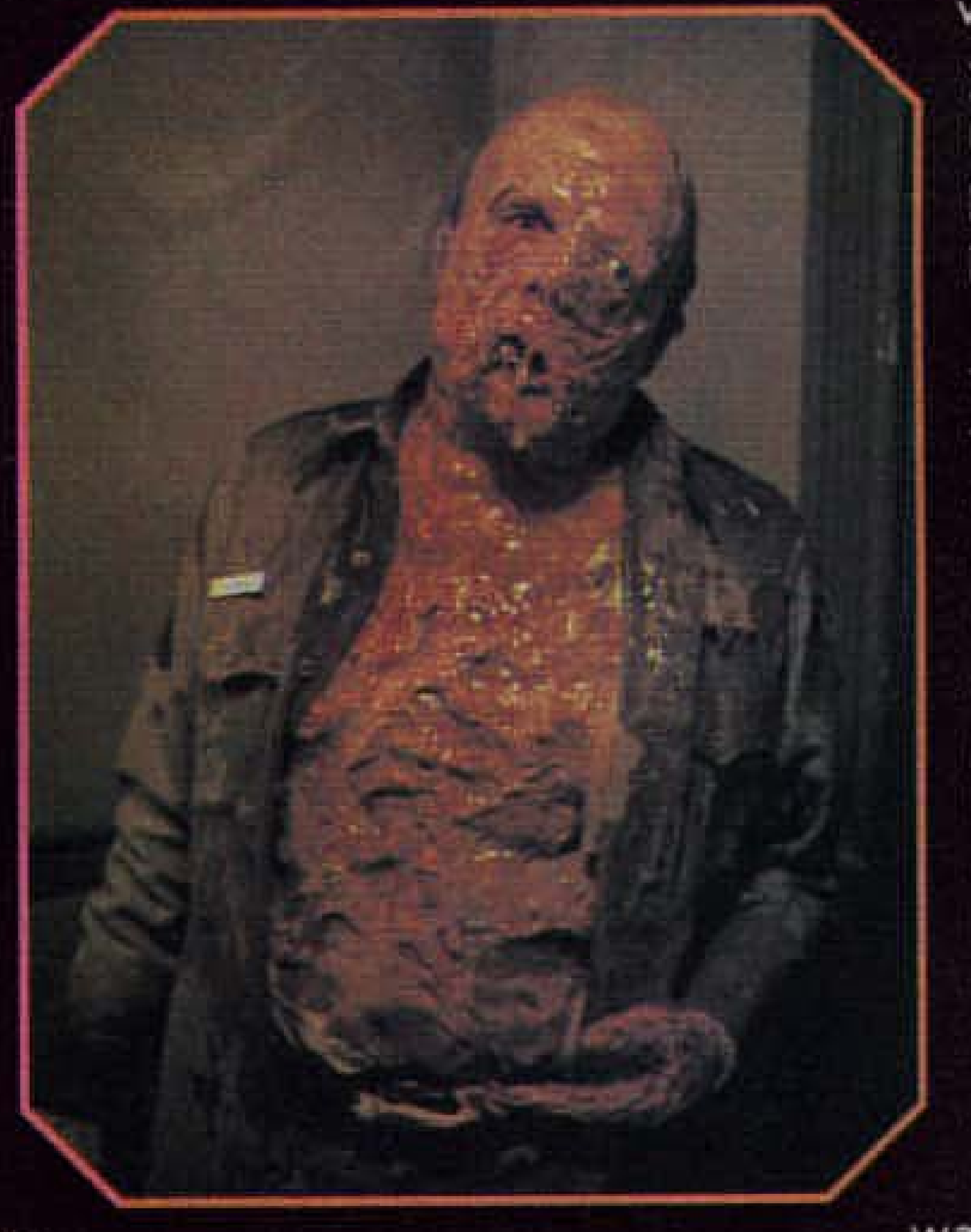
Or maybe there's even more to it than that. What about that white light coming down from above at the end of *Jason Goes to Hell?* It could have been from a UFO, right? Maybe Jason's folks messed with eldritch-arcane-cosmic-Love-craftian-horror-Necro-nomiconesque Olde New England Evil powers and it attracted alien Shadow beings from the outer Rim (Jason vs. *Babylon 5?*), and the aliens abducted Jason and did things to him (Jason vs. Aliens vs. Predator?), until at the end of his last film, when he was defeated the aliens rejected him, consigning him to be dragged under by The Mole People or something (including Freddy)? Yes, I am a bit perplexed. It shows, huh?

And while we're on the subject of my confusion, how did Jason get from being a normal looking but seemingly dead young boy-thing in a New York City sewer at the end of the 8th Friday, *Jason Takes Manhattan*, back to being a full-grown man-thing (and back at Crystal Lake) chasing the undercover agent at the start of the 9th Friday, *Jason Goes to Hell?* Was there a *Friday the 13th Eight and One-Half* that I missed or something? Maybe they should do a comic book about that missing chunk of time. Yes?

But back at this comic book article, let's do some trivia and start with, "Who first played Leatherface?" Gunnar Hansen. "What's the nearest town to the Leatherface farm in the first *Chainsaw?*" Newt. Yes, really.

"Who first played Jason?" Ari Lehman. "How many people did Jason kill in the first *Friday the 13th* movie?" Yes, it's a trick question. Altogether now, the answer is (if he wasn't possessing or controlling his mom), ZERO! "What year was Jason said to have originally died?" '57. "What year was Jason born?" '46. "When's Jason's birthday?" Right, Friday the 13th! "But what month?" It rhymes with Moon (a full one of which is the first thing seen in the first *Friday the 13th*). June. "Who played Jason more than once and in which films?" Kane Hodder in *Fridays* VII, VIII, and IX (and check out Hodder's awesome metal werewolf in *Project: Metal Beast* if you haven't already).

"What's the connection between Jason's hockey mask and *Halloween?*" In the third Friday film (in which Jason first gets his hockey mask), the practical joker guy (Shelly) from whom Jason later gets the hockey mask does an homage to Michael by sneaking up on his friends with a Michaelesque knife and mask.



Let's take a time-out from trivia. I've got to ask you something. How come the tune Harry Crosby's character plays on the guitar in the first Friday is also a tune in the soundtrack of the famous Kirk Douglas movie, *The Vikings?* It's also a popular Swedish traditional song. Since Harry Manfredini did the score for most of the *Friday* films including the wonderfully Bernard Herrmannesque score for the first one, and Mario Nascimbene wrote *The Vikings'* score, was Manfredini cleverly doing some homage to Nascimbene who had made use of a traditional Swedish tune? (And I'm not even going to mention the connection between *The Vikings* and the first two Michael Myers films. You figure it out!)

Trivia again. "What's the connection between Jason and the Forrest Gump Goes to the Moon movie?" Damn, but you're good! Yes, Kevin Bacon, who was in Apollo 13 (with Tom Hanks who played Gump, if you've been on the Moon), was also in the first *Friday the 13th*. He's the one who got the Tom Savini FX arrow-from-beneath-the-cot-pushed-out-the-front-of-his-neck (a scene that was repeated – except with a blade instead of an arrow and with a woman instead of a man lying in a hammock instead of on a cot – in the third Friday film, lending credence to the possibility that since it was Jason doing the killing in the third film, it may indeed have been that Jason was possessing or controlling his mother when she did the arrow-from-beneath thing in the first fim, unless of course after she died she possessed Jason and it's been her all along).

By the way, would you pay to see (I'm just curious here) Leatherface vs. *Forrest Gump?*

But tell the truth, now, did you ever, even for a moment, identity with (while watching one of their films) one or more of our Big Three masked cinematic killers or any similar film characters, even big-movie respectable ones like Hannibal Lecter or less realistic ones like Dracula or Godzilla?

So, yes? You have identified with them sometime? And you enjoyed the fantasy (let me repeat, the fantasy, please) of wielding the power of terror and death?

Might it be that one of the things so-called slasher films have the potential to do for us is to help us or make us see what's most ugly/dangerous/destructive about ourselves? Some part of us we want/need to keep hidden (even from ourselves) behind some kind of mask we may not even know we're wearing? So that if we maybe knew and watched for watered down (hopefully very watered down) manifestations of that truth about ourselves in our everyday lives, we might end up being more the kind of person we thought we were but weren't but might still want to be and have a chance yet to become? That's not too profound, is it? Just confusing as hell? Okay, then, how about this?

How come beneath our mask we're all too likely to be more in love with violence and death than with life? How come we Jason/Leatherface/Michael watchers are entertained by viewing personalized deaths in stalk'n'kill horrors or mass deaths in action hero epics, but we judge relationship movies in which people laugh'n'cry but don't necessarily die silly and boring?

How come if a book or movie or comic leaves you feeling a squishy or silly grin kind of good

inside it's almost never considered as important or cutting-edge or "realistic" as one that leaves you frustrated and depressed (like watching too much TV news)? And speaking of the news, how come in the news biz the saying if it bleeds, it leads (I don't know who said it first) is nearly always true? And in other kinds of show biz, too?

No, I don't know how come any of the above. But I do wonder about it, especially after I read a book called "The Demon Lover". Robin Morgan wrote it, but it's not about supernatural demon lovers. It's more frightening than that. It's about real life stalking and killing, terrorism, war, and the other love-death, sex-death things that dominate human society (in the middle of which Jason and Leatherface fit so very comfortably). Better not read it, though. You might start wondering how come, too, and I don't know if you could handle it. Well, could you? Consider yourself dared. But in the meantime, did I hear someone ask what were my favorite horror films?

I'll list a few less recent ones I've discovered that you might enjoy if you already haven't. At the top of this list is the famous Barbara Steele vampire film, *Black Sabbath*. Hammer's elegant *Horror of Dracula* is another favorite, as are *Dracula's Daughter, Nosferatu, Freaks, I Walked With a Zombie, Dead of Night, A Face in the Fog, Curse of the Demon, The Haunting, Portrait of Jenny,* and the great Swedish version of *Frankenstein.*

But what about the films of the Three Big Guys Who Wear Masks? Leatherface's first film remains my favorite *Chainsaw*. But my favorite Jason film is the seventh one where he acquires real EC Comics good looks and battles the telekinetic young woman (Jason vs. Carrie?). And my favorite Michael films are all of them, yes, even number three (talk about interesting masks).

There's a new Michael film coming out soon, I've heard. I hope they deal with the mystery guy in the silver-tipped boots from Halloween 5. I hope they explain how come both he and Michael had Thorn Rune (Thurisaz) tattoos on their wrists. And in the Jason and Freddy film, will Jason get to wear Freddy's hat and Freddy Jason's hockey mask? And someone said there's a new *Chainsaw* out, described as the "real" sequel to the first *Chainsaw?* What does that mean? I haven't seen it. But I want to. How come. I don't know. He's on third. And good night.



C. Dean Andersson writes short stories and horror novels with cuddly titles such as "Small Brown Bags of Blood," TORTURE TOMB, RAW PAIN MAX, and BURIED SCREAMS. His tenth novel, FIEND, published last year, was set at a comic book convention. In the works are a couple of MORTAL KOMBAT novels and I AM FRANKENSTEIN, the second in his "I AM..." series that began with I AM DRACULA and will continue with I AM THE MUMMY. Under the pen name of Asa Drake he wrote WARRIOR WITCH OF HEL and two sequels featuring Bloodsong, a dead-alive warrior woman who claims she could take Jason without breaking a sweat.

